existing ones in Bihar in view of the fact that maximum quantity of coal is available there;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) if not. the reasons therefor; and

(d) the capacity of existing thermal power stations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) The following two thermal projects under the State sector have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. But the work on these projects could not be taken up due to financial constraints.

1. Tenught TPP St. II (3 x 210 MW)
2. Muzaffarpur TPP extension (2 x 250 MW)

In addition to the above State projects. the following coal based thermal projects requiring the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority are proposed to be developed through the private sector in Bihar:-

1. Jojobera TPP (240 MW) of M/s. Jamshedpur Power Company Ltd.
2. Chandil TPP (500 MW) which is presently under bidding.

[English]

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

677. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any kind of work has been carried out in Gujarat under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years on the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As part of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme, block-level integrated rural energy projects are prepared and implemented under which various energy devices are promoted through extension, demonstration and incentives for meeting the energy needs of the rural people. The various energy devices promoted in IREP blocks in Gujarat include, among others. Improved Chulhas, Wind Mills, Solar Cookers, Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Motorised Potter's Wheel, Bio-gas Plants, Energy Plantation, energy Efficient Devices, etc.

An expenditure of Rs. 83.05 lakhs. Rs. 78.74 lakhs and Rs. 71.58 lakhs have been incurred during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

Ban of Plying of Commercial Vehicles

678. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the plying of commercial vehicles which are 15 years old in the country;

(b) if so, whether 15 years old commercial vehicles are creating maximum pollution in the environment;

(c) the time by which a final decision to impose a ban on such old commercial vehicles would be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The age of the vehicle is not related to the quantum of pollutants emitted. It depends on the maintenance of the vehicle, quality of fuel and other technological aspects.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The amount of pollutants emitted from a vehicle primarily depends on its maintenance/fitness. Accordingly, as per rule 62 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the Central Government have already prescribed the necessity of a "Certificate of Fitness" for every commercial/transport vehicles for their valid registration. The validity of such "Certificate of Fitness" is for two years for new vehicles and subsequently for one year. The vehicles which fail to obtain such "Certificate of Fitness" are not allowed to ply on roads.

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Jammu and Kashmir

679. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Nehru Yuvak Kendras functioning in Jammu and Kashmir and the areas covered by them;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open any Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Udhampur area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent during the last three years till date on these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) At present, the following 14 Nehru Yuvak Kendras are functioning in Jammu & Kashmir :—

1. Kathua